

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. - 20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended): A method for improving the spreading properties of a topical cosmetic formulation, ~~said topical formulation suitably adapted for compounding with at least one of a cream, a lotion, a liquid foundation, massage oil, a pressed cosmetic product, an eye shadow, a blush, a powder, a semi and solid foundation, a molded cosmetic product, a lipstick, a lip balm, and eyeliner, mascara, a hair care product, a conditioner, a relaxer, and a hair dye,~~ said method comprising the steps of:

providing a fatty alcohol containing starting material, said starting material comprising at least one fatty alcohol and at least one of a spreading agent, an emollient and a botanically derived oil; ~~and~~

acylating said fatty alcohol to produce a formulation product that demonstrates improved spreading properties as compared with the spreading properties of the starting material prior to acylation; and

compounding the acylated product with at least one of a cream, a lotion, a liquid foundation, massage oil, a pressed cosmetic product, an eye shadow, a blush, a powder, a semi-and solid foundation, a molded cosmetic product, a lipstick, a lip balm, an eyeliner, a mascara, a hair care product, a conditioner, a relaxer, and a hair dye.

22. (previously presented): The method of claim **21**, wherein said step of acylating said fatty alcohol comprises introducing at least one acylating agent from the group consisting of acetyl chloride, acetic anhydride, butyryl chloride, butyric anhydride, propyryl chloride and propyric anhydride to said fatty alcohol starting material.

23. (previously presented): The method of claim **21**, wherein said fatty alcohol composition comprises at least one of a wax and an oil.

24. (canceled).

25. (currently amended): The method of claim **21**, wherein said fatty alcohol comprises at least ~~two~~ a plurality of free hydroxy groups.

26. (canceled).

27. (previously presented): The method of claim **21**, wherein said fatty alcohol comprises at least one of a saturated moiety and a mono-unsaturated moiety.

28. (currently amended): A method for improving the spreading properties of a topical cosmetic formulation, ~~said topical formulation suitably adapted for compounding with at least one of a cream, a lotion, a liquid foundation, a massage oil, a pressed cosmetic product, an eye shadow, a blush, a powder, a semi-solid foundation, a molded cosmetic product, a lipstick, a lip balm, an eyeliner, mascara, a hair care product, a conditioner, a relaxer, and a hair dye;~~ said method comprising the steps of:

providing a fatty alcohol containing starting material, said starting material comprising at least one fatty alcohol and at least one of a spreading agent, an emollient and a botanically derived oil; and

introducing at least one acylating agent to said composition, wherein said acylating agent comprises at least one of $R_1C=OOR$ and $R_1C=OCl$, where R_1 comprises an alkyl substituent of the acyl group having between 1 and 5 carbons, and R comprises an organic carbon-containing residue;

wherein the spreading properties of the resulting acylated fatty alcohol product are substantially increased over the spreading properties of the fatty alcohol composition prior to acylation-; and

compounding the acylated product with at least one of a cream, a lotion, a liquid foundation, a massage oil, a pressed cosmetic product, an eye shadow, a blush, a powder, a semi-solid foundation, a molded cosmetic product, a lipstick, a lip balm, an eyeliner, a mascara, a hair care product, a conditioner, a relaxer, and a hair dye.

29. (currently amended): The method of claim 28, wherein said fatty alcohol comprises at least ~~one~~ a plurality of free hydroxy groups.

30. (canceled).

31. (previously presented): The method of claim 28, wherein said fatty alcohol comprises at least one of a saturated moiety and mono-unsaturated moiety.